are high-cost projects, allowing 100% FDI in airports would help in creation of new airports facilities. Creation of new airports facilities in the States like Orissa, etc. would, however, depend upon commercial viability of such projects.

Congestion in air traffic

1480. SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge increase in air traffic in recent months and it is becoming increasingly unmanageable for the staff and management of the airport authority which causes a huge risk of accidents too;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the air traffic situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in total aircraft movements for the year 2004-05 is 11.9% over the total traffic handled in 2003-04. In the recent months (April - December) 2005-06, the air traffic (aircraft movements) has grown by 13.3% over the same period of 2004-05. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is managing the air traffic efficiently in accordance with the standard prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

(c) Various steps taken by AAI to reduce congestion at major airports *inter-alia* include construction of new high speed exit taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai, parallel taxi track at Delhi so as to reduce runway occupancy time and additional parking stands at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi, cross runway operation at Mumbai, improved ATC procedures, implementation of Dedicated Clearance Delivery Position, ban on general aviation aircraft at Delhi and Mumbai during peak period, upgradation of ATC automation system at Delhi and Mumbai etc.

Special Purpose Vehicle for airports

1481. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle to develop airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the airports on the modernisation list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of air services from Guwahati

1482. SHRI URKHAO GWARA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide air connectivity of any kind with Guwahati Airport from every Headquarters of Autonomous District Councils of Assam that has become most essential today;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines already operates to six airports in Assam *viz.* Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silcharand Tezpur. Indian Airlines also connects Guwahati to Lilabari and Silchar. Besides, Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines in terms of which all scheduled airlines are required to deploy at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on trunk routes (i.e. Category I routes) on Category II routes, which includes the North-Eastern States. 10% of the capacity so deployed is to be deployed for connectivity within these regions. Subjects to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Commencement of air services from Pathankot

1483. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Pathankot Airport in Punjab for general public in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) a new Terminal Building for 300 passengers, apron link taxiway, car park for 200 cars and allied works at Pathankot have already been completed by Airports Authority of India.